Amusements. . THIS EVENING-THE BLACK CROOK-Great Parisiana Ballet Troupe. AVINTER GARDEN.

THIS EVENING ""OURS." Mr. Loster Wellack, Mr. Frede Robinson, Mr. John Ollbert, Mr. Charles Fisher, Miss Modeline He elgars, Mrs. Vernon.

THIS EVENING PEOPLE'S LAWYER LIVE INDIAN.

THIS EVENING-ELIZABETH Bistori. THIS EVENING-CENDELLION-GRAND PAIRY BALLET.

OLYMPIC THEATER.
THIS EVENING THE HUGUENOT CAPTAIN-Mr. Charles

DAY AND EVENING—MAJOR JONES CHRISTMAS PRES ENT-AWAY WITH MELANCHOLY, Me C. W. Cista and full company, TWO HUNDRED TISQUAND CURIONTIES— VAN AMERICAN COLLECTION OF WILLD ANIMALS.

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THIS EVENING -DAS FEUSTER EIN ERSTEN STOCK-Mr
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THIS EVENING-BUDWORTH'S MINSTRELS-THE MAN IN BLACK-TWO POMPEYS-WAKE UP ABRAHAM, 4c. THIS EVENING-CECILIAN CHOIR. Muster Richard Coker.

THIS EVENING-FIRST APPEARANCE OF LITTLE MAC.

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New-Dork Daily Tribune.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1866.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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We cannot undertake to return rejected Communications.

TRIBUNE," New-York.

Do On our second page to-day will be found our Foreign Correspondence, including letters from Paris, Vi-enna and Florence, and a letter from Count De Gasparin on Universal Annesty and Impartial Suffrage. third page contains The Money Market and a com tion on our Mexican Policy, besides news and other otter on this and the seventh page.

The new French Minister, M. Berthenny, was yesterday presented to the President, and has assumed his official duties.

An affidavit of a number of manufacturers of Belgian paying-blocks, near this city, directly contradicts the statements of Controller Brennan in regard to the contracts for the Croton Aqueduct Board. While these discussions are unsettled the public will not be entirely satisfied with Gov. Fenton's decision in the Controller's favor.

The Mexican reports are more contradictory than ever. From one source we receive information that Escobedo has been executed at the instance of Canales; from another, that Minister Campbell has joined Escobedo. The Government at Washington is said to believe the former report to be true. In this case, we hope our Mexican Minister chose a convenient time for his visit.

Christmas was celebrated in New-York and the adacent cities with the best of feeling and good cheer, and without anything to mar the general festivity. The churches were opened in the morning, the streets were gay and brilliant, and the generous spirit of the day penetrated even the dark cells of the Penitentiary and the Tombs. To many who were happy in their comfortable homes the joy of the festival may have been increased by the knowledge that so much had been done to make this Christmas something more than a name to the poor. In all the public institu tions the anniversary was observed, and even the oriminal and the outcast were not excluded from the blessings of the day.

One of the sincerest of the European friends of American freedom and progress, the Count Agenor de Gasparin, gives us in a letter to-day an able and intelligent view of the problem of reconstruction. He believes that the Constitutional Amendment, as it stands, can be no final remedy for our troubles, and that even as an expedient there is no certain reason to believe that it will bring about the reconciliation of races and the early enfranchisement of the blacks. Such a form of coercion may seem ever so persuasive, but the South is left at liberty to fortify its white prejudices within still narrower lines of caste. There is but one solvent, thinks M. de Gasparin, for our general trouble, and that is "Universal Amnesty and Universal Suffrage," The former must settle the white part of the question; the latter must satisfy the blacks; and together they should meet the nation's whole demand. The local and temporary embarrasaments of the case our writer does not argue; but his views are in the main very just and timely.

SLAVERY IN MARYLAND.

We have briefly noticed the startling fact mentioned by our Baltimore correspondent that the slave trade was being carried on in Maryland by the judicial and executive officers of that State, under the pretended authority of the Maryland Code, and in alleged accordance with the National Constitution. Advertise-menta announcing the sale, for a term of years, in pursuance of the sentence of a Court and the authority of a sheriff, will excite a feeling of something more than surprise in the breasts of hundreds of thousands, who for more than a year have been accustomed to thank God that Slavery in America had been constitutionally abolished. They believed that they had lived to see the day so long prayed for, when in his westward course over our ocean-girt Republic the sun no longer rose upon a master nor set upon a slave. But here is bideous vision of auction blocks in front of Court Houses for the sale of "slaves and other cat-"tle." with a sheriff as anctioneer, flourishing his judicial record and pointing to the "Constitutional 'Amendment sholishing Slavery" as confirming its validity. Even those who in the olden time had so "conquered their prejudices" as to contend that Slavery was not a crime, must feel that its unblushing revival at this moment and in this form is, to say the least, a

blunder. The responsibility for the existence of this anomaly, which tends to make us contemptible in the eyes of the world and despicable in our own, rests primarily with the Congress which, in proceeding to amend the Constitution for the abolition of Slavery, and intending that abolition to be total and final, neglected to use words that indicated their intention. Earnest suggestions to this effect were met by the reply that it would be more historically nteresting, and would exhibit a more continuous and uniform legislation to adopt and incorporate into the Constitution the identical prohibition of Slavery framed by the Fathers of the Republic and embodied in the ordinance that secured freedom to our great North-West. To the indulgence of this sentiment, which we thought then, and which we still think, partook rather of idle pedantry than of sound statesmanship, is the country indebted for the fact that American Slavery and the slave , ade are carried on to-day under the shelter of that amendment. An absolute prohibition of Slavery, without exception, would have passed Congress and would have been ratified by the people of the States as readily and as certainly as the one which was adopted: and yet-in its place we have the following article, authorizing and justifying Slavery in a class of cases which, if left to the decision of the Rebel States, may be enlarged and extended until Slavery is made once more their peculiar institution: Art. XIII., see. 1 .- Neither slavory nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction." Until some new amendment shall abolish this exeption, servitude for crime will be permissible under the National Constitution; but what we have to do. and what we can do, is to see that it is inflicted as a punishment only for crime and not for color. This subject may properly engage the attention of Congress under the second section of the Amendment, empowering them to enforce the article by appropriate legislaon. But the true remedy for this and other abuses o which the blacks are subjected by State legislation spired by Slavery, is in exposition by the Supreme nrt of the United States of the true meaning and effect of the Constitutional Amendment, in giving to the Republic a National policy of equal freedom and

The allowance by the Amendment of Slavery as a punishment for crime may seem to militate against this view, but it should be remembered that, by the first article of the Constitution, apportioning representatives and direct taxes, " persons bound to service 'for a term of years" were expressly included among the number of free persons," and that it was not un-

equal justice.

its peculiar horrors. The question how far the Amendment abolishing Slavery has changed the depend upon his assurances, and when in this converattention of our National Judiciary. The provision of the Maryland Code under which, for the same crime, white men and women are sent to the Penitentiary and black mon and women are sold into Slavery, affords an excellent opportunity for an elaborate argument and final decision on the right of the States thus to discriminate between American citizens, and to establish, in a republic where all men are born free and equal, aristocratic and class distinctions. The subject was recently alluded to in an address to the Union League Club of New York by its President, and the opinion was intimated that the Amendmen had rendered of questionable validity some of our antiquated State laws, both at the North and the South, that imposed disabilities and penalties not for crime but for race and complexion.

"A class of judicial questions," said Mr. Jay, growing out of Slavery and its incidents, which had been finally settled, as was supposed, under the Constitution as it was, would seem to be disturbed if not reopened by the Constitutional Amendment, that has substituted Freedom for Slavery as the premise of the argument by which their validity was formerly established. It may possibly be that the identical course of inductive reasoning, which, starting from the view of the late Chief-Justice that the framers of the Constitution of 1789 regarded the blacks as having no rights whatsoever, served to establish upon that basis, by the severest logic, the right of the States to disfranchise, outlaw, degrade, and insult what Mr. Taney called 'the slave races,' a class thus uneared for and unprotected by the Constitution, may lead to a different conclusion, when the judges commence with the new fact, that the American people in their sovereign capacity have constituted, ordained, and established that the members of the race thus disfranchised shall be equally entitled with themselves to the inalienable rights of American citizens."

The effect of such a decision on the suffrage quostion which now agitates the country, was in a subse quent part of the address thus described: "Should the Supreme Court, upon a thorough review of the national policy as affected by the Amendment, reach the conclusion that the National Constitution as amended no longer permits the States to establish inequality, by the outlawry or disfranchisement of a class, the difficulties heretofore anticipated from an interference by Congress with the supposed rights of the States to disfranchise at their pleasure will be avoided. The decision will affect North and South alike, and the question of suffrage on an equal basis will be opened for readjustment in all the States, with such conditions as regards residence, intelligence, and taxation or property, as

each State may severally prescribe. If upon the first suggestion there should be any difference of opinion on these points, we think there should be none in regard to the unconstitutionality of the law of Maryland, creating class distinctions where one are to be found in the Constitution. If Maryland has the right to punish American cit zens for their race or their complexion, why not for their rekgous creed, or their political opinions? We trust that no time will be lost in issuing writs of habens corpus, whenever there may be occasion for that old safeguard of personal liberty, and in submitting the question in its national length and breadth to the judgment of our Supreme Tribunal.

GUARANTEEING MEXICO.

From the elaborate plea in behalf of Mexico, which we print to-day, it will be observed that a writer, hose views are at least clearly stated, is disposed to believe that the duty of this country to her sister Republic requires that some sort of material aid shall be given to Mexico. We dissent, but we give the writer a hearing. We don't think this country can afford to repeat, in any form or to any extent, the blunder of Napoleon. Nor are our finances in a condition to encourage us to enter upon any transactions involving a financial guarantee of the Republic.

The fortunes of Mexico-we mean the Republic and ot the Empire-have never been in reality so hopeless as they have seemed to superficial observers. Instead of being an argument for a monarchy, based on sions like those of the Rebel exile Harris, that "the Mexicans are the most worthless population on earth," they prove the endurance of Republican principle against the greatest odds that have ever assailed a nation of equal numbers. It has never been generally understood that the struggle of Mexico through a chronic war has been ever toward a more perfect Republic, instead of retrograding to an Empire. The Mexicans have encountered, among others those troubles resultant from powerful and inimica institutions, which we were so fortunate as to get rid of, at a cost of some billions, a year ago. Mexico abolished Slavery, though possibly no slave-owning country, except it be some Spanish province like Cuba, had so many artificial reasons in the texture of its society, and the mixed nature of its institutions and politics, to assimilate itself wholly to this convenient but terrible evil. But when Slavery was, put under ground, there to await Maximilian's late summons for its resurrection in the form of peonage, a much more potent evil confronted the Mexican reformer. It was a Church that owned more money and available and valuable property than the State itself. Of all religious or political wrongs, that is one of the worst which joins the Church to the State, at expense to the morals, intelligence, and honesty of both. The clerical leaders of Mexico made had confessors and worse gover nors; and its priest-ruled politicians and soldiers were reckless statesmen and corrupt generals. A Church which can, when actuated by less than the highest Christianity, exercise a dangerous dominion over ignorant millions, contracted a fearful liaison with the Mexican State. The crime of such a connection cost Mexico, as it has cost other States, a prodigal and awful expense of treasure and blood. But, after innumerable revolutions, fiercely testing the tenacity of the most vital principle of self-government, the Re public rose victor, and Church-craft and King-craft went down. The secularization of Church property. accomplished by the Liberals under Juarez, had placed Mexico on an honest basis and overthrown the monarchical principle. Her future seemed never before so bright and assured, until Napoleon intervened to erect again the monarchy, with about as much reason and scraple on his part as it would take to restore Slavery at this moment in the United States.

Nevertheless, the cause of liberty has survived in long-suffering Mexico. At the end of a tedious contest, the principle with which her war began has vindicated itself. After trial of the longest and sorest character, with monarchy in the field, backed by the mightiest nation of Europe, it is found that Mexico will neither tolerate the Empire nor surrender the Republic. She has proved her capacity to endure, and has fairly earned the sympathies of mankind. It is not the Republic that is now to be despaired of, but the monarchy; not Juarez, but Maximilian; for, once left to itself, Mexico has morally no other choice

Mr. Eggleston of Ohio had a long interview with the President the other day, and the substance of their conversation is published in The Cincinnati Commereigl. It is of little importance what Mr. Johnson says to Republican Members of Congress, for his profes

although it was entirely free from those features of percental criticism, he was understood to approve it, and chatteldom which gave to Southern Slavery returned it without suggesting a single alteration. His voto followed quickly. We have learned that we cannot National policy, as hitherto deduced from sation we find the President objecting that Congress Slavery under the old Constitution by pro-Slavery had given no pledge that the Rebel States should be judges, is one which has not as yet engaged the admitted upon adoption of the Constitutional Amendment, and even asserting that all he could now ask would be that reconstruction upon that basis should be conceded by Congress, we cannot be sure that he will no longer use his influence against it. He ex-pressed to Mr. Eggleston his hope that the Southern States would be admitted upon the ratification of the Amendment, but what has he said to the Southern Legislatures? Since the verdict in tavor of the Amendment-a verdict he professes to respect-was given to the people, several Southern States have rejected the Amendment, and not the least of their reasons was that the President held it to be unconstitutional. If he sincerely wishes the Amendment ratified, he should certainly have publiely announced his change of opinion. We cannot find anything in this conversation that indicates a disposition on Mr. Johnson's part to submit to the will of the people, while in his recent acts is ample proof that he disregards it. In reëstablishing Slavery as a punishment for crime in the Department of the South, he has done enough to make mere professions worthless. We listen to his smooth words with incredulity, for we are compelled to accept his actions as the true expressions of his policy.

THE OLD AND NEW SOUTH.

It is almost vain to expect that this generation of Southern men can be taught to understand the North, the negroes, or themselves. The suddenness of the change has bewildered them, and their effort seems to be to reconcile by labor laws and penalties the traditions of Slavery with the living facts of freedom. Their children may learn the uselessness of such attempts, but it is evident that the leading men of the South look back with fond regret to the days when a few thousand gentlemen were the masters of millions of laborers. Ex-Gov. Vance of North Carolina, in a recent lec

ture, expressed these feelings with a sad sincerity

He told his bearers that "the country gentlemen who owned a large number of slaves and thousands of acres of land had disappeared with the Southern Confederacy." They were gone to return no more, and he mourned over their departure. He pitied the negroes; they were the happiest race upon earth when they were slaves; but now he feared they would take their departure with their masters. They are dis appearing as a race very fast. "The invigorating sound of the 'old banjo,'" said the eloquent Governor, "is 'no longer heard, and the 'old double shuffle' is fast fading away and will soon be gone, lost to the present and unknown to coming generations." He recalled with touching effect the days when the slaves taught him to twist a rabbit out of a hollow and build a bird-trap on a Sunday. Nor did he fail to lament over the happy condition of the Southern kitchens, when he "used to bother the old cook, and sometimes received a slap, followed with 'Git out o' here, de 'wite folks waitin for do wittels." But in grieving over such terrible losses, the Governor did not have one word to say for what the colored race has found. There were pleasant things in Slavery, as there are in monarchy, aristocracy, and other general evils. It must be delightful to be a king, even in these days of revolution, and there are thousands of hard-working men who would like to be the traditional nobleman, with a castle, a park, and a few hundred tenants to patronize. A kingdom is a good thing for the king. We used to be told before 1851 that the slaveholders were kind to their slaves, and that cruelty was an exception. It was useless to soply that mercy could never be a substitute for justice. As this supposititious kindness was then made an excuse for denying the negroes their freedom, it is now a pretext for refusing them the rights without which freedom is but a name. A former slaveholder writes to us from Lynchburg, Va., that he has "more kindly and truly sympathizing feelings for the unfortunate race than any Abolitionist in the North, and would to-day contribute, according to his means, more toward their comfort than any man in the present Congress of the United States, including Sumner and Wade; but, at the same time, would submit to any infliction that could be imposed rather than be brought to equality in every sense with the negro." No doubt this gentleman has benevolent feelings for his dogs, and would do a great deal for his horses, but this kind of sympathy is not fit for men to offer or ac cept. Will the old lords of the land ever learn that it is not kindness but justice that the negro needs? Give him his rights and he will find his friends. It is precisely this equality before the law which the Southern aristo erat would refuse, that the negro wants, and civilization sustains his demand. The blessings of absolute freedom will make charities unnecessary; the negro is immeasurably better off having the right to use all legal means to support himself, than in dependence upon a generosity which may be withdrawn. These

MORE STEALINGS.

are truisms in the North, but mysteries to men like

Gov. Vance, whose eyes, dazzled with the sunburst of

the future, turns fondly to the familiar twilight of the

Yesterday afternoon both Boards of the Common Council passed a resolution authorizing and directing the Controller to pay all the clerks and attaches of the Common Council \$250 each, and charge the same to the balance of any account. By the law all this is illegal. As the account of "City Contingencies. from which it has been customary to make these Christmas gifts, was long ago exhausted, and as the account of "Donations," from which the Common Council gives presents to blind persons and others, was swallowed up in the early days of the session, there is no account whatever, no matter how great its balance may be, from which these presents can be lawfully made.

Let us see the extent of this scheme. There are about fifteen clerks to the Board of Aldermen and eleven to the Board of Councilmen. Adding to those twenty-six clerks some ten or twelve reporters, and about twenty hangers-on around the City Hall, who will be lugged in under the head of "attachés," we shall have a jolly company of about fifty-eight goodfor-nothings, who, under this iniquitous resolution, will draw \$250 each for alleged extra services. They will receive altogether the snug little sum of \$14,500, with which they can make the holidays pass very pleasantly. So confident is the Ring that it will be able to hurry this matter through, that some of its members have already bought up a few of these claims at a discount. call upon Mayor Hoffman to veto this scheme by which the city would be despoiled of about \$15,000. The resolution did not even receive the requisite number of votes in the Board of Conneilmen, and Mr. Hoffman must know that it is against the provisions of the last Tax Levy to order the money to be paid from the balance of any account in the City Treasury. Section 9 says: "The said soveral sums shall be applied only to the objects and purposes for which the same are hereby appropriated." At any rate, we hope Controller Brennan will give his friends in the Common Council to understand that he will not signify his retirement from office by being guilty of the "irregularity" of paying out \$15,000 of the public funds against law. If the measure should pass over the Mayor's veto, an injunction from Judge Barnard may save us the money

At the time of passing this resolution, another was rushed through to pay an indefinite amount to the Clerks of the Board of Aldermen sitting as City Can-

We understand that there is no money from which the proposed exponditures can legally be made. Most of the Clerks of the Board of Alde then perform little or no work for their large salaries. They are not entitled to a cent extra for their attendanc upon the Board sitting as a Board of City Canvassers. Mayor Hoffman may veto this measure also.

A NATIONAL GOOD NAME.

Iago, in the play, had his own private reasons when e said to the Moor: "Good name in man and woman, dear my lord, is the immediate jewel of their souls; for Iago had been wounded in a delicate point for which we do not think the critics have made sufficient allowance. It is curious that while a fair reputation is considered priceless by the majority of mankind, and is even more valuable to the vicious than the virtuous nations, which are only aggregates of individuals, and which talk quite enough, as Heaven knows, about their honor, they are nevertheless prodigal of good character whenever a political point s to be gained; taking it for granted that their own historians will defend them, and evincing a sublime scorn for the opinions of future ages. It is a humiliating fact that there is not a government in the world which has not occasionally done dishonest things. It is a fact cheering to the moralist that, in almost every case, peccant nations have been forced to pay the penalty of their misdeeds. Sooner or later, in some moment of imminent emergency, the bad name which was acquired with such indifference proves a source of embarrassment if not of disaster. We were covetous, for instance, of the Province of Texas, and to secure it we went to war, upon the most frivolous pretenses, with Mexico. We knew, when we annexed it, that annexation was itself an act of war, and that what we wanted was not more territory simply, but more territory to hold slaves in. We came out of the fight sucessful, and what did we care then for the opinion of the Mexicans? No more than Antonio cared for the opinion of Shylock, upon the Rialto. But the time came when the Signor Antonio needed three thousand ducats which Shylock had to lend, as the time has now come when we need, or think we need, a potential influence in the adjustment of Mexican offairs; and we find that some at least of that nation, however otherwise contemptible, have very respectable memories. The placards upon the walls of Vera Cruz tell the story. Who took one-third of your territory in 1848! Who chased you from Texas, calling you greasers Who called you a nation of wantons and thieves? Who treated you like slaves and pushed you from the sidewalks, except Americans?

"Well, then, it now appears you need my help, said the old usurer to the borrower. We take it for granted that our avowed national policy is a good one; that it is for our interest to keep this continent clear of royal dynasties; that the French occupation is a substantial grievance; and if we could have proffered our assistance to Mexico with clean hands and a clear conscience, or if we had simply kept that good character which gives weight to good advice, it

is hardly probable that France would have ventured upon her interposition, or that the Austrian would have grasped the Mexican scepter. An old head like that of Napoleon was hardly likely to discard from its calculations that hatred of Americans which the armies of Scott and Taylor left behind them when they evacuated Mexico, or so much of it as we were pleased to permit its inhabitants to retain. He knew what excellent haters were the half-breeds of these latitudes, and how he could play upon long cherished and sedulously nursed resentments. His gome has failed, but it by no means follows that the field will be an open one for our own. If we have a faction in our favor, we are pretty sure to have a faction against us; and under the most favoring circumstances, we shall get a fresh proof of the fact that confidence is a plant of slow growth. However kindly and honorable our intentions may be, for of these we are not speaking, we are, to most Mexican minds, only the invaders of their soil, the destroyers of their cities and the partitioners of their ancient territories. We need not hold up our hands with wonder to find that there is, at this most inconvenient and untimely moment, a bitter feeling in Mexico against the United States, and we may be sure that Maximilian will make the most of it; for it may prove the straw which will save him from frowning, as it is certainly the sole string in the Mexican heart upon which he can now play. It may not be very profitable in public matters to dwell upon what might have been; but the most cursory observer must see how much better would be our posies which we most fondly cherish, if we had not stolen Texas, and made war in defense of the great larceny. Texas, in time, we should have had, as well as California, without the waste of one drop of blood; and how much more of the Mexican Empire would have peacefully followed by the cheap process of diplomacy! As it is, our great, glorious and triumphant war with Mexico has not only cost us the good will of the Mexican people when we want it, but it was one of the causes of the Rebellion of the South. Who says that honesty is not the best policy?

REWARDS IN SCHOOLS.

Since we offered, the other day, a few remarks upon flogging school-boys and school-girls, the subject has been discussed by that respectable body "The Boston Social Science Association," and we are glad to find that veteran and accomplished educator, Mr. George B. Emerson, plainly declaring that in his pinion "the system of flogging makes the pupils barbarians," Mr. William P. Atkinson, another gentleman of authority upon such subjects, said: "When "a school cannot be governed without the rod it is an 'indication that the school is not properly organized.' If we were wrong it is a consolation that we were wrong in such excellent company. Both the gentlenen above-named are practical teachers of large experience, and have tested the opinions which they pub-

The system of rewarding pupils for good behavior and for proficiency was also discussed at this meeting, and Mr. Emerson said very plainly that "the distribu tion of medals makes the pupils heathens;" by which we suppose he meant that it promotes jealousies, heart-burnings, envy, pride-passions essentially un-Christian, although Mr. Emerson's designation may be unjust to enlightened and conscientious heathens In Boston no more medals are to be given in the girls schools-for the boys' schools there are, we believe, certain endowments for annual medals, and it may require a decree in Chancery to divert the direction of these funds into some more profitable course. But the action in regard to the girls' schools settles the principle; and an entire reform may be confidently

Medals and other rewards might be more properly distributed if there were any way of determining with judicial accuracy the precise degree of merit to which each pupil s entitled; but so long as, both in degree and kind intellectual capacities differ, and so long as the ante cedents of pupils must be various, it will be found im possible equitably to determine whether the scholar who has excelled or the scholar who has failed is entitled to the medallic distinction. If the pupils could be fairly started together, still it would be impossible. There is no fixed winning-post in the school itself-the real goal is at the end of a lifetime, and the real race comes off, as they say, upon the course, in the fullness of manhood, and under very different conditions from those which govern the competitions of the schoolhouse. Nine great men out of ten have been agreeable disappointments to their relatives and friends. The ultimate brilliant success of dunces has always been a biographic phenomenon. Genius is wayward; as they were called, thus to bind themselves to a sort of Slavery, so far as labor and obedience were concerned. Freedmen's Bureau bill before the President for his penses was transferred to the Police Department.

its own way. The records of our colleges show that it is not always the valedictorian who turns out a great man-the specials gratia fellows, who hardly win their A. B., sometimes show a wonderful power in making up for time lost, or supposed to be lost, during the university curriculum. Experience and daily exigencies finally prove to all active and self-respecting men the value of knowledge, both as a means in the economy of life and as its own "exceeding great reward;" and if our sch sols could be managed so that the vital importance of culture should be comprehended in the freshness and hop fuiness of the first start, there would be less time wasted in the beginning and fewer deficiencies to be subsequently supplied. It is the dull routine. unalleviated by the smallest tineture of enthusiasia. which makes a nuchine of the teacher and equally a machine of the papil, from the constant collision of which come cuffs, and blows, and beatings, hatred of school-keeping on one side and hatred of school-going on the other, irritability and passion, despotic government and listless obedience! You worster that the child detests school; you brandish a rod at him with one hand and you dangle a gold medal before his eyes with the other; and this is the best introduction which you can afford a fresh, unbackneyed, eager nature to the flowery fields of learning and of mental improvement! You make study dull, and then impute dullness to the student; you make the temple of learning a sort of House of Correction, and flog him if he plays truant; you impose dreary tasks with incongruous penalties for their non-performance; and although this shild intrusted to your care is the father of the man or the mother of the woman, you treat it with far less discrimination than Mr. Rarey bestowed upon his horses, and with less skill than is exhibited in the most approved methods of dog-breaking! Yet naturally boys and girls love knowledge as they love now toys; it is only when knowledge has been made distasteful by blundering or pedantic treatises, and its acquisition, in some sort, transferred into a penalty, that they detest it. Does giving a medal or any other prize help the matter? How can it, when the donation is inevitably regarded as a compensation for doing that which it should have been a pleasure to do simply for its own sake? We are infamously inconsistent. We take it for granted that a child will avoid, if possible, secular instruction; for six days in the week we drill it and dose it with unphilosophical grammer, and muddled geography, and arbitrary or-thography, and naked arithmetic, enforcing each acquisition by intermittent flagellation; and on the Sabbath we send the little victim to a Sunday School to be nurtured in divine things. We give six days to pride and one to humility. We assume during all the week that obedience is to be specifically rewarded, and then preach to children that a good conscience is the best reward of all. Poor creatures! No wonder that they are bewildered, as they will continue to be until the art of teaching is better understood.

WESTERN TREE-PLANTING.

Something should be done to supply timber for the future. The demand constantly increases, and it puzzles calculation to think how great it will be 50 years hence. Sixty-six trades depend on wood, and could a substitute be found, mechanical industry must be reorganized before it could be used. Of every description of raw material modern civilization is an enormous consumer. Our people are spreading over the face of the whole land, and they destroy the timber wherever they go. It is a great question how to preserve and renew our forests. Last Winter Congress granted to a company in Kansas a large body of land to plant with trees. Other companies wish grants for the same purpose, but it is doubtful whether all the difficulties are foreseen. The question is not whether trees will grow, or even what kinds will, for in Western regions, 500 miles from chestnut forests, the chestnut tree, for instance, grows like corp. To plant largely requires large sums. The ground must be cultivated, and for nearly twenty years there can be no returns. It is true a part may be in nursery, but nurseries are nothing new. Then the plantation must be fenced, and the best fence is the Osage orange; but this, too, for a time, must be fenced for preservation. To fence 40 acres of prairie, when lumber is cheapest, will cost \$10 an acre. To carry out the plan on a scale large and varied, seems too great a task for private means. At present, sufficient capital for such a purpose is very scarce, and the work is left entirely to the General Government and to the States. These two great proprietors own most of the land whereon it is necessary that we should protect against the ax and torch of the pioneer a reserve of timber for the future use of this rapidly growing country. To preserve what forests we have is not enough. We must reach the art by which the crowded estates of the old world have, in a considerable measure, managed to maintain their timber supply. The enactment of intelligent and practical laws by every State owning large timber lands would go far to save them from

ABOUT BAD FLOUR. At the Corn Exchange on Thursday, Dec. 13, 1866,

sales of New-York Superfine Flour were reported at \$7 55@\$9 65, fifteen cents per barrel more than the same description of flour was sold for the day before, which proves that bad flour can rise in price, if it sinks into flinty "hard tack" when baked for sailors and soldiers. The next quotation is \$9 75@\$11 30 for "sound extra State," which clearly shows that the former was unsound, and should have been branded bad. Four or five different kinds of extra are reported, at various prices, from \$8 46 to \$16, enough o perplex a Philadelphia lawyer to find out what extra means. It is not intended by the mixing millers that buyers of their villainous, extras shall discover their meaning until they have paid for the flour. When the dealer or retailer sends a barrel of such flour to a customer, the latter tries to use it, and finding the cheat, sends it back. The shrewd miller does not put his name on the barrel, and as the sale is made through a broker, the purchaser, if he has paid the bill, has no recourse to the concealed offender. The dealer has been swindled, and must bear the loss, or cheat some one else. Such is the Corn Exchange of New-York, as represented by some of those who there do congregate. The disgraceful fact still stands out on the report of the market that New-York Super fine flour is publicly sold for less than half the price of Southern flour.

But the Southern millers are already taking lessons from the New-Yorkers. Receivers of Southern flour say that the best of the Southern flour is not senf here. The first run of the mill is kept at home, and branded Family. The inferior is branded Extra and sent to New-York. There is often a difference of from \$1 to \$2 a barrel in the value of the best Southern extras that come to this market, and thus are we paid in our own coin. The grinding of unsound wheat is defended by some persons on the ground that most of it goes abroad, and the people of England are accustomed to such food, as much of their grain comes from foreign countries and is generally more or less damaged on the voyage. Hence we are no worse than other shippers of 1 d flour and grain-no worse than Greeks, Turks, Poles, and Russians. It may be so; it may be true, that our "rogues in grain" are no worse than European "rogues in grain," but it seems to be a novel application of the adage "to him that hath shall be given." It would be more creditable to us to be able, if in truth we could, to deny the fact, than to defend the practice on such authority.

When will the manufacturers of Europe turn their attention to the establishment of their workshops in our Western States, and live upon the rich productions of the soil there, fresh and free from deterioration by transportation to the scaboard, and thence to Europe! When our Congress shall give